

## History

In 2013, multiple agencies submitted budget requests for increased funding for high-speed, high-capacity fiber networks. It seemed prudent to fund these needs in a more coordinated way to leverage increased capacity across the entire enterprise.

Concurrently, the push for reliable, accessible and affordable high-speed broadband was one recommendation from the Shaping Our Appalachian Region, or SOAR, initiative, created in 2013 by then Governor Steve Beshear and Congressman Hal Rogers.

Since the Finance and Administration Cabinet (FAC) procures goods and services for the Commonwealth, they began to research and determine the best way to obtain improved Internet access, speed, capacity, affordability and reliability. The cabinet issued a Request for Information (RFI) and gathered responses from incumbent providers and potential partners about their capacity to provide enhanced services and their level of interest in working on broadband opportunities.

Solicitations were released for an investment partner and for a concessionaire arrangement. After working with the two winners of those RFPs, the public-private-partnership (P3) model was determined to be the best approach. The Commonwealth entered into a contract with Macquarie Capital to design, build, operate and maintain the KentuckyWired network.